## Claims

1. A method comprising:

a host transmitting a first signal to a first device;

in response to the first signal, the host receiving a second signal;

the host detecting a presence of a second device, in response to receipt of the second signal if the host is of a first set of hosts; and

the host ignoring the second signal if the host is of a second set of hosts.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the second device is a fail over switch.
- 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

after receiving the second signal, the host receiving a third signal from the first device;

the host transmitting the second signal to the first device; and the host receiving a second signal from the first device.

- 4. The method of claim 1, performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the host and the first device.
  - The method of claim 3, wherein the second signal is a Serial ATA out of band (OOB) signal.

- 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the fail-over switch is a Serial ATA fail over switch.
- 7. A machine-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by a machine, will cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

a host transmitting a first signal to a first device;

the host receiving a second signal from a second device;

the host identifying a presence of the second device, in response to receipt of the second signal;

the host receiving a third signal from the first device; the host transmitting the second signal to the first device; and the host receiving the second signal from the first device.

- 8. The machine-accessible medium of claim 7, wherein the operations are performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the host and the first device.
- 9. The machine-accessible medium of claim 7, wherein the second signal is a Serial ATA out of band (OOB) signal.
- 10. The machine-accessible medium of claim 7, wherein the medium is one of an internal logic of a circuit and an internal state machine of a circuit.

11. A machine-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by a machine, will cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

a host transmitting a COMRESET to a device;

the host receiving a COMWAKE from a switch;

the host identifying a presence of the switch, in response to receipt of the COMWAKE;

the host receiving a COMINIT from the device;

the host transmitting the COMWAKE to the device; and

the host receiving the COMWAKE from the device.

- 12. The machine-accessible medium of claim 11, wherein the operations are performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the host and the device.
- 13. The machine-accessible medium of claim 11, wherein the medium is one of an internal logic of a circuit and an internal state machine of a circuit.
- 14. A system comprising:

a processor; and

a machine-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by the processor, will cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

transmit a COMRESET to a device;

receive a COMWAKE from a fail over switch;

identify a presence of the fail over switch, in response to receipt of the

receive a COMINIT from the device; transmit the COMWAKE to the device; and receive the COMWAKE from the device.

- 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the fail-over switch is a Serial ATA fail over switch.
- 16. The system of claim 14, wherein the operations are performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the system and the device.
- 17. The system of claim 14, wherein the medium is one of an internal logic of a circuit and an internal state machine of a circuit.
- 18. A system comprising:
  - a processor;

•

- a network connection; and
- a machine-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by a machine, will cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

transmitting a first signal to a first device;

receiving a second signal;

identifying a presence of a second device, in response to receipt of the second signal;

receiving a third signal from the first device;

transmitting the second signal to the first device; and

receiving the second signal from the first device.

- 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the second device is a fail over switch.
- 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the operations are performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the system and the first device.
- 21. The system of claim 18, wherein the medium is one of an internal logic of a circuit and an internal state machine of a circuit.